

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S: JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091022

NODIS

FOR BROWN FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE, SY

SUBJECT:FRANGIE'S PROPOSAL TO ASAD

REF: BEIRUT 3291

1. IN FUTURE, I BELIEVE IT IS PREFERABLE NOT TO CONVEY TO LEBANESE WHAT SYRIANS HAVE TOLD US IN DAMASCUS AND TO LET ASAD SPEAK FOR HIMSELF. HE MAY HAVE REASONS FOR TAKING ONE LINE WITH US AND ANOTHER WITH LEBANESE, AND WE SHOULD NOT GET OURSELVES IN THE MIDDLE.

2. FRANGIE'S REQUEST THAT WE ASSURE HIM WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSAL HE PLANS TO MAKE TO ASAD ON A CONSORTIUM FOR SECURITY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF RECONSTRUCTION GIVES US PROBLEMS. WE DO NOT WANT TO TIE OURSELVES TO AN IDEA WHICH NEW LEBANESE GOVERNMENT MAY OR MAY NOT ENDORSE AND WHICH SYRIANS MAY OR MAY NOT FIND ACCEPTABLE. WE PARTICULARLY WANT TO AVOID GETTING INTO A SITUATION

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WHERE WE WOULD HAVE GIVEN OUR STAMP OF APPROVAL TO A

PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION WHICH WOULD BE IN EFFECT A COVER FOR A SYRIAN SECURITY ROLE IN LEBANON. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WANT TO SOUND TOTALLY NEGATIVE IN RESPONDING TO VALID CONCERNS WHICH HAVE PROMPTED FRANGIE TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH A PROPOSAL.

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3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE COMMITTED TO RESPONDING TO FRANGIE, YOU SHOULD LIMIT YOURSELF TO MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ASSIST LEBANON IN RECONSTRUCTION.

B. WE WILL WANT TO SEE WHAT NEW LEBANESE GOVERNMENT MAY PROPOSE IN THIS RESPECT; MEANWHILE, WE BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO COMMENT OR TAKE A POSITION ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE SECURITY ASPECT. KISSINGER

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